

PETRA

M I N I S T R I E S

SPRING NEWSLETTER

1984



**RUN FOR
THE PRIZE!**

A BIBLE STUDY FROM
BOB HARTMAN



HEY! PSSST!! GOT A LIGHT?

You're in a dark room at night. It's pitch black and you're all alone... At least, you don't hear anyone else. You're cold, lonely, scared. All you have are your senses...

You quietly take inventory of what's on you—a pen, some pocket change, a book of matches...

What do you do?

Matches! You can't smell gasoline... You hope you're not in a dynamite shed... You light a match.

Whew! No explosives! But there are others in the room, huddled against the wall, in the corner, scared and quiet. You quickly blow out the match. You know more about the situation, but it's risky. You speak, light another match, ask for help. Each time you strike another match, you gather important information. You discover a locked door, discarded tools, a high window, a table...

Soon you and your compatriots are escaping into the light of the early morning. There is a brilliant dawn breaking outside...

At this moment in your life, you may be trapped in a large, dark room...

If you take inventory, you may find that you have easy access to a "book of matches." It may be in your pocket, or close at hand...

The Bible is your "book of matches," filled with light. Throughout this newsletter we have hidden dozens of "lights" that are especially chosen for you. These lights will help your life because they contain very relevant words from our God. Each time you see a flame (🔥), look up the verses in the Bible and read them! Think about them! Here's your first light! We've gone ahead and printed it, as our prayer for you.

Colossians 1:9 "For this reason, ever since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you. We ask God that you may receive from him all wisdom and

spiritual understanding for full insight into his will, so that your manner of life may be worthy of the Lord and entirely pleasing to him. We pray that you may bear fruit in active goodness of every kind, and grow in the knowledge of God. May he strengthen you, in his glorious might, with ample power to meet whatever comes with fortitude, patience, and joy; and give thanks to the Father who has made you fit to share the heritage of God's people in the realm of light!

J.B. Phillips Translation

Love,

Petra

Petra

Proverbs 4:18

Matthew 5:14-16

1 John 1:5-9

Matthew 7:7,8

Matthew 6:22,23



PETRA MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

The Petra Ministries Newsletter is a publication of Petra Ministries, whose editorial office is located in Nashville, Tennessee. The newsletter is provided for the purpose of encouragement, exhortation and the guidance of youth in the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Further, the newsletter is designed to enhance the ministry of the gospel through music, Bible studies, humor, art, letters, testimonies, concert and seminar information, prayer and news.

All letters are welcome, and should be addressed to Petra Ministries, P.O. Box 111386, Nashville, TN, 37222-1386. Any donations made to Petra Ministries will go toward the printing and mailing of the newsletter. We encourage the use of this newsletter in Bible studies, and we can send copies for your class or youth group. Shipments of the newsletter will be made at our cost, which is \$6.00 per 20 newsletters. Shipments in multiples of 20 only for group orders. We will send single copies of the newsletter for 50¢ apiece; just send the desired address to us at Petra Ministries! Thank you.

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Illustrations and Design by **Dennas Davis**

COMIN' AT YA!

THE NOT OF THIS WORLD TOUR

APRIL 30

HARTFORD, CT
203/677-5242

MAY 1

BURINGTON, VT
802/878-8213

MAY 3

SYRACUSE, NY
315/656-2231

JUNE 3

ST. JOHNS, NB
506/466-5180

JUNE 5

MONTREAL, QUE
514/327-0422

JUNE 7

KINGSTON, ONT
613/354-3551



MAY 4

TRENTON, NJ
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804/397-4540

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CHARLOTTE, NC
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MAY 11

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919/872-7252

MAY 12

COLUMBIA, SC
803/796-0385

MAY 29

DAYTON, OH
513/667-2522

MAY 31

ROCHESTER, NY
716/232-1136

JUNE 1

ALBANY, NY
518/370-1414

JUNE 2

PORTLAND, ME
207/622-9943

JUNE 8

KITCHENER, ONT
519/753-9677

JUNE 9

TORONTO, ONT
519/753-9677

JUNE 11

TOLEDO, OH
419/866-8178

JUNE 12

LANSING, MI
517/655-3094

JUNE 14

GREEN BAY, WI
414/734-1434

JUNE 15

DAVENPORT, IA
319/359-7212

JUNE 16

OMAHA, NE
402/453-2504

JUNE 18

WICHITA, KS
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501/996-2125

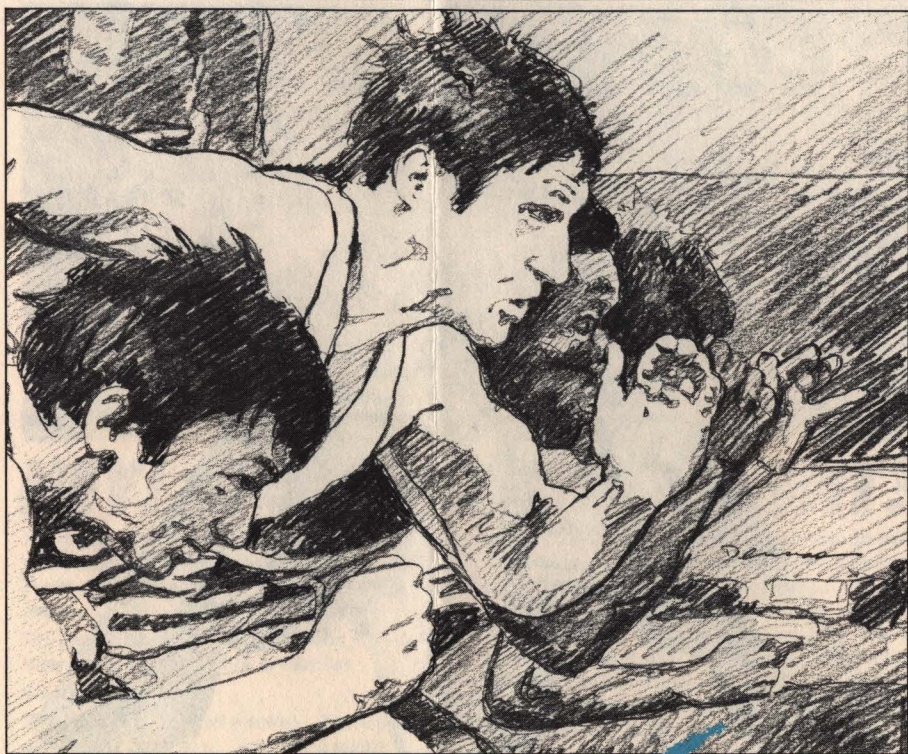
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AUGUST 17-31

**EUROPE MISSION
TOUR**

LANDING THIS SPRING IN A CITY NEAR YOU!



RUN FOR THE PRIZE!

A BIBLE STUDY BY BOB HARTMAN

*"When I run,
I feel His pleasure!"*

Eric Liddell

Winner 1924 Olympic Gold Medal, 400 Meters Run

Paul the apostle wrote many letters to Christians in the first century. In his letters he frequently compared the Christian life to running a race.

His readers were very familiar with the popular Greek games of their day, and Paul's illustrations helped them understand their new life in Jesus. Paul wrote:

"Do you remember how on a racing track every competitor runs, but only one wins the prize? Well, you ought to run with your minds fixed on winning the prize!"

Paul is saying that we must have an intense desire to win: a deep commitment, one that will *stick* when the going gets rough. The Christian life must be approached with all the desire and sacrifice of men and women who compete for the gold in the Olympics! Paul is exhorting us to *GO FOR IT!*

GO FOR IT!

Jesus said that we must love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves. Does this kind of commandment require serious training? Of course! Even more, it requires a radical change in our natures, something only our Creator can do! We don't have the power to change ourselves, but God DOES! Luke 18:26,27.

"Athletes will take tremendous pains for a fading crown of leaves." (The crown of leaves is the ancient equivalent to our Olympic Gold Medal. It was the Award of Honor for winners of the Greek games.) "...Our contest is for a crown that will never fade."

The reward for our faith in Jesus Christ is a crown of glory that we cannot yet imagine! "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." I Corinthians 2:9. Daily, God is moving us one step closer to the likeness of Jesus, preparing us so we will be able to bear the weight of the glory we will be given. II Corinthians 3:18.

NO PAIN, NO GAIN

Why all this preparation? Why are we being trained, transformed? Answer: We are being molded like clay in the Master Potter's hands, to serve in God's kingdom. Romans 9:20-23.

Our trials and temptations are like the fire that bakes clay in the potter's oven. The heat changes the clay, making it sturdy, useful and beautiful.

Trials are also like the fire in a smelting oven: gold and silver ore melts, and its impurities are removed as the precious metal remains. Proverbs 25:4. The same is happening to you in your Christian life: you are being refined and purified into the likeness of Jesus. Don't become discouraged or give up! Understand that "God will fully complete the work that He has begun in you." Philippians 1:6.

STAY IN YOUR LANE

If you've ever run the 100 yard dash, the 220, or the 440, you know that in these races you will be penalized if you stray from your lane. In I Corinthians 9:26, Paul says he does not run *aimlessly* or *uncertainly*. In the original Greek, his word implies that the Christian does not stray from his lane.

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Our adversary would love to lure us off course, making us waste valuable time and potential. To win the race, however, we must keep our eyes straight ahead, riveted upon our goal—Jesus Christ! Hebrews 12:2.

DON'T RUN IN YOUR SUNDAY CLOTHES

No runner worth his salt would run a marathon in his street clothes. Imagine trying to win a race dressed in a three-piece suit, or in a long pretty dress with high heels!

Yet we often find ourselves running with unnecessary baggage that slows us down: pride, hard-heartedness, bitterness, ungratefulness, rebellion, a sinful habit, or an evil motive. We are told to "lay aside every weight, and run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1.

RUN WITH COURAGE

When Paul says to run with perseverance, his words mean "to run with the ability to triumphantly deal with circumstances."

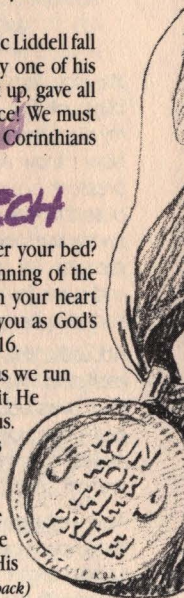
In "Chariots of Fire," we saw the runner Eric Liddell fall during a race after having been pushed by one of his adversaries. Eric didn't stay down! He got up, gave all there was within himself, and won the race! We must have such courage! Philippians 3:13,14; II Corinthians 5:6,7.

CARRY THE TORCH

Do you light a torch, only to hide it under your bed? No! The Olympic Torch signals the beginning of the competition, and the torch that was lit in your heart signals the beginning of great things for you as God's child. Let your light shine! Matthew 5:15,16.

Like a proud father, God's eyes are on us as we run the race. By His Word and through His Spirit, He cheers us on, training us and encouraging us. He warns us of things to avoid and He leads us in the goals that we should pursue! He is working within us, changing our hearts and our lives. May our hearts blaze as we respond in love to Him and to others in the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of His Holy Spirit!

(Continued on back)



Hearts

The Lord is changing our hearts in many different ways! It's remarkable to see how God, using His Word, our friends, everyday circumstances, and His Holy Spirit in our lives.

The following sketches are taken from common life situations that you may recognize light into our hearts, "firing us up" for His holy purpose!

Dancing

I remember attending my first ballet—the grace and beauty of the dance brought tears to my eyes.

Sarah was the star that night. She exuded grace, confidence, and a gorgeous outpouring of joy. As the lights shone and the crowd applauded, I dreamed that I would someday dance!

Then I took the first step. I asked Sarah to help me. She quickly introduced me to my new teacher and my first classes. Soon, as I began to learn, stretch and move, I found I was dancing as I'd never danced before...In discovering new movements and steps, my muscles responded with joy; they also ached. I often felt awkward, inept, incapable...Yet my teacher, my classmates and Sarah helped me and encouraged even my most basic progress.



Now it's only a year later, and the difference is amazing! I never thought I would dance like this, and I'm still just a beginner! New steps are not easy, and my muscles often ache...yet each time I discover a new, graceful movement, I am once again caught up in the joy and the beauty of the dance!

☐ How is learning the dance similar to becoming a new believer in Jesus?

☐ Dancing is not only a technique that is learned; it is also an art that is practiced and performed. Compare dancing to the art of the Christian life.

☐ How was the young dancer helped by Sarah and her classmates? What are simple ways we can help others to learn the dance? Romans 12:9-18.

Teamwork

You know, last year I could hardly understand my playbook. This year I decided to finally study my plays, and the effort has really paid off! Now I know all the plays by heart: the pressure points, the timing, and each player's moves. Once I had the plays down, I started to notice each of my team members' strengths. We began to build our strengths and work for each other. That's when we started to become a team.

About that time, we also started to notice each other's weaknesses, but we didn't let them overshadow our strengths. We just helped each other more, planned new plays, worked on our moves, covered our backsides, and built up our strength, speed, and stamina.

Now we have a clearer picture of the whole game. We know how we work together, and we've all been able to help each other. And it's working! We're moving ahead with our purpose—winning games!



By the way, the guys have named me co-captain! I used to think leadership was a measure of a guy's popularity. Now I know better. It's more a result of serving the other guys and knowing what the game is all about. Sure, it takes hard work, but it truly pays off!

☐ What is the Christian equivalent to "learning the plays?" II Timothy 2:15.

☐ In which areas did God give you special strengths to serve the team? Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:12-13:13.

☐ How should we deal with weaknesses of others? Galatians 6:1-5; II Corinthians 12:9, 10; Romans 15:1-6; James 2:1-13.

☐ The Lord taught that the one who serves others will be called the greatest in His kingdom. Does this principle bring success in day-to-day living? Matthew 18:1-4; John 13:3-15; Galatians 5:13, 14.

on fire!

takes each of us right where we are and trains us up in the way we should go by

if you can learn a few of the ways God moves in you and others, bringing Jesus'

Pushin' Steel

"I never really thought I would bench-press 225 pounds of steel! After all, I only weighed 151 pounds when I started lifting in the ninth grade. But my trainer said he thought I had what it would take, and I'd soon be there!

So early into my workouts, I made a commitment with my friend Dennis. We promised each other that we would work out consistently. It's amazing what a difference a commitment can make! It works like this... We both know that our inner desire is to reach our goal. Yet the feeling is sometimes strong and sometimes weak, and it really helps to have friendly encouragement when you don't "feel" like working out.

We also "spot" each other as we work. This means we stand ready to help as the other pumps iron, just in case he loses balance or gets into trouble trying to lift a heavy set.

We also yell, scream, and grunt as we work out! That's



just lifters' language to exhort and encourage each other! At first, I hated the "burn," the feeling you get in your muscles as you do the last few lifts in a set. It's like your muscles are on fire. I quickly realized however that the "burn" and even the "ache" afterwards are signs of growth. The "burn" is felt when the muscle fibers are being pushed to their limits. The "ache" is a sign that the cells are rebuilding themselves, becoming stronger. The pain is a signal of growth. Growing pains, you might say.

- ☐ What is the value of commitment in working toward a goal?
- ☐ How is "working out with a friend" similar to living in fellowship with other believers? Hebrews 3:13
- ☐ Rest is as necessary as a good diet and a proper workout. What does God have to say about the balance between work, diet and rest? John 6:28-40; Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 11:28.

On Track

Can you believe it? Last year, I was mad at God! I mean, I was pretty disappointed. I thought God had really botched up when He mixed my genes together!

After all, last year I looked like a pencil! It seemed like my legs went all the way up into my armpits... In fact, I was so "leggy" that I'd trip just getting out of bed!

And then there was my nose! My friends said it looked like a hood ornament!

Well anyway, this year my legs are still long—maybe longer; and I'm still skinny, but at least I know why... Longer stride and less wind resistance! I've got the perfect bod for the "880!" And I'm convinced



that my nose helps me slice through the air, (as long as I don't look up or sideways and get whiplash.)

I'm a regular racing machine! Perfect for the quarter, 880, and Mile Relay! How was I to know God had this in His perfect plan? I guess I just couldn't see past the nose on my face! (Get it?!)

- ☐ The quartermiler's looks and physique didn't change much. What changed?
 - ☐ Often we don't yet understand God's plan and purpose for our lives. This misunderstanding of God's will can cause us to be bitter. What can we do to better understand God's will?
- 11 Corinthians 10:12; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Psalm 139:13, 14.

LETTERS

JESUS IS LORD! AND HE IS DAILY

Jamie is Saved!

Jesus: The Answer to Suicide!

Dear Petra,

This is a letter of thanks. My name is Jamie. I am a former alcoholic, drug addict, runaway, you-name-it... as I grew up, God got shoved to the bottom of my list... by fourth grade, I had a bad mouth and was always lying... seventh grade, I was drinking and smoking... by eighth grade, I made a lot of friends, but they were all the wrong ones...

By my sophomore year, I was really rebellious, smoking pot every day, taking speed, drinking every night. I really put my parents through hell, living hell... I was really into "Rush," the group, cocaine, got involved with Satanism... In March, this one Christian girl from my school asked me if I wanted to go bowling with their youth group. I agreed (I was grounded from downtown.) We got to the meeting place and the leader said all the lanes were taken and asked if we wanted to go to a Campus Life singing group, so I agreed. On the way, they were playing the tape, "More Power to Ya." My ears freaked out! I said, "Is this Christian Music?"

When we got to the concert, the lead singer was talking about if you were to die, would you go to heaven? I knew the answer for sure! That night I decided to give Jesus a chance to help me, 'cause I sure wasn't getting anywhere the way I was going.

I told Him, God forgive me. (I did this in the privacy of my room.) He did forgive me. Then I looked at my rock music. The Lord said, "You have heard my music, you have something to fall back on." So, in the morning, I took all of my records out of my room, my pot pipe, and my bong. I burnt all of my posters of Rush and other gross posters, and my Rush jersey and others. I replaced it with a Petra jersey and a Petra Live concert poster. I liked what Greg

said, that you are Christians in a Christian band, and you stand for Jesus, and you don't try to be like rockers in a rock band... Right after I was saved, I went up town. I was getting laughed at for my decision, and the song, "Stand Up, Take a Stand for Jesus" came to my mind. I'd only heard it a couple of times. It helped me face my old friends. I couldn't remember where I heard it. When I got home, I turned on my tape player and there it was! I just want to thank the five of you for using your talent for God, 'cause you were the first Christian band I heard. It was a lot easier to make a decision for Christ when I knew I could have good music to listen to... See you all in heaven!

In Christ's Love,
Jamie

Dear Jamie,

Praise God for His work in you! You have taken a great step, and God will continue to work in you, even when you don't think anything is happening! Let Him continue to free you from your old habits and ways of thinking! Write us again! God bless you! Romans 8:1-39.

Dear Petra,

Recently, you performed a concert in the southeast. There stood a twenty-three year old woman with her face in her hands, crying and laughing at the same time. I am that woman. I confess that I have not been a Christian very long, but your concert, especially one song, touched the inner core of my being. Everywhere I had turned, there seemed to be a wall blocking every move I made. I had "failed" in my first career job, had to move back with my parents, and was hit with more and more

TO PETRA

CHANGING PEOPLE'S LIVES!

Good News From Prison!

Getting Right with Parents!

emotional and physical problems. I also didn't know anyone in the city, even though I tried to make new friends at church. I felt trapped, and I wanted out.

I finally called out to the Lord that if something didn't change by a certain date, that was it. I would die. I realized that one cannot give the Lord ultimatums, but I was so desperate, I couldn't handle it. You have to believe me when I say that I was fed up and at the breaking point.

I was ready, too. I had the gun and the place all picked out. The date I was to die? January 11, after a certain "holy roller" concert. I had been invited by a friend at church, and I figured I would go, and then take care of my "situation." Then came "For Annie." I cried and cried. It seemed that all the filth in my life welled up and came out through my eyes. I realized that I don't need pills or a gun to end my life. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me! And "the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loves me and gave His life for me!" I'm willing. I know that things won't be easy, but things like eternal life are worth the sacrifice.

With the Lord's help and guidance I can make it one day at a time. All I ask is that the Lord show me enough light for the next step in my journey with Him.

If it were not for you I would have ended my life. You saved my life. What can I do to tell you how much I love and appreciate you? I will never forget you.

In Christ's Love and Purpose,
Barbara

Dear Barbara,
Romans 15:13! We love you!

Dear Petra,

I'm sitting here along with two other guys, and we're listening to the "More Power to Ya" album. One of the guys told me that Petra is his favorite from now on. He's BRAND NEW to the faith and has received much witness from Petra. He's turning his kids and wife on to Petra on the outside! Praise God!! Jesus is alive and well with us here in prison! I received your first newsletter and received a great "meal" of good solid food. I've shared it with many.

So many guys here are seeking the Lord, and us brothers believe that many souls will be saved. So, we're preparing them through the wisdom and love of the Spirit...

In Jesus' love,
John

Isaiah 61:1-3.

Dear Petra,

... Before I went to the Creation '83 concert, I was beginning to take God for granted. I was slowly growing apart from my parents and falling into a semi-rebellious trip at the time, which I wasn't aware of. I had a closed mind and a sense of "I know it all." See, I'm a preacher's kid. But you really changed that. Petra really helped open my eyes. The song, "Judas Kiss," really hit me. After that concert, I rededicated my life to the Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you for your ministry!

Greg

Proverbs 4.

*Names and locations have been changed in respect of our brothers' and sisters' privacy.

We'll Send You A **FREE PETRA PIN**

With each item you order through the Petra Ministries Newsletter!

Just to let you know how we operate, our Petra Ministries newsletter is supported by donations and whatever we might be able to sell in this section of the newsletter. At present, we have thousands of young people that we will send the newsletter to, and the cost of printing and mailing is mostly paid for through donations.

We are committed to continue the newsletter as a source of encouragement and direction in Jesus Christ for the thousands who are fans of Petra. We believe this follow-up ministry is only the beginning of other ministries to young people as we all grow in the Lord.

If you would like to help us, we want to make it a blessing for you, too. Each album, T-shirt, or poster we offer is at a discounted price. We hope this is a ministry in itself. Also, the money from your purchase of these products goes directly back into getting the next newsletter printed and mailed, as well as toward missions that we believe in, such as Compassion International and our local Teen Challenge program.

So, here's what we'd like to do:

For every item you order, we'd like to send you a **FREE Petra Pin**

It's just a small way of saying "thank you" for your help. Please order the items you want, and we'll ship your order out of our office within five (5) working days after receiving it.

Thank you for your help in supporting the Petra Ministries Newsletter. We hope and pray it is a blessing to your life in Jesus Christ!

TO ORDER WITHOUT AN ORDER FORM:

Simply write the full name of the item(s) you have chosen on a sheet of paper, including your choice of album or cassette, or your choice of color.

Be sure to include the Petra Ministries price and add the appropriate postage. Thank you for helping to support the Petra Ministries Newsletter!

Mail your check or money order to:

PETRA MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER
P.O. BOX 11386
NASHVILLE, TN. 37222-1386

Please do not send cash. We will ship your order to you within 5 working days of receiving it. Please allow 3 weeks time for the postal service. Thank you.

How to Figure Your Postage and Handling Fee:

If your subtotal is less than \$10.00, add \$1.01.

If your subtotal is over \$10.00, add \$2.01.

If your subtotal is over \$20.00, add \$3.01.



Petra Albums and Cassettes

- AA NOT OF THIS WORLD**/Includes Doxology/Bema Seat/Blinded Eyes/Godpleaser/Graverobber/Lift Him Up/Not by Sight/Not of This World/Pied Piper/Occupy. List Price: \$8.98/Ministry Price: \$7.99
- BB MORE POWER TO YA**/Includes Stand Up/Second Wind/More Power To Ya/Judas' Kiss/Rose Colored Stained Glass Windows/Run For The Prize/All Over Me/Let Everything That Hath Breath/Road To Zion/Disciple. List Price: \$8.98/Ministry Price: \$7.99
- CC NEVER SAY DIE**/Includes The Coloring Song/Chameleon/Angel of Light/Killing My Old Man/Without Him We Can Do Nothing/Never Say Die/I Can Be Friends With You/For Annie/Father of Lights/Praise Ye The Lord. List Price: \$8.98/Ministry Price: \$7.99
- DD WASHES WHITER THAN**/Includes Why Should the Father Bother?/I'm Thankful/Morning Star/Magic Mirror/Mary's Song/Yahweh Love/(Couldn't Find Love) Without You/Taste and See/Magic Words/Deep Love. List Price: \$8.98/Ministry Price: \$5.99
- EE COME AND JOIN US**/Includes God Gave Rock and Roll To You/Holy Ghost Power/Woman Don't You Know/Sally/Come and Join Us/Where Can I Go/Without You/Ask Him In/God Gave Rock and Roll To You (Reprise). List Price: \$8.98/Ministry Price: \$5.99
- GG PETRA**/Includes Walkin' in the Light/Mountains and Valleys/Lucas McGraw/Wake Up/Back Sliding Blues/Get Back To the Bible/Gonna Fly Away/I'm Not Ashamed/Storm Comin'/Parting Thought. List Price: \$8.98/Ministry Price: \$5.99

Petra Collectors' Items

Petra T-Shirts and Jerseys

JJ TOUR JERSEY

"Baseball" Jersey with Petra "Sword" Logo on front. "Not of This World" Tour Itinerary on back. PolyCotton Blend. Choice of Royal Blue or Maroon.

(List Price: \$12.00) Ministry Price: \$9.99.

KK SLEEVELESS T-SHIRT

Petra "Sword" Logo on front. "Our Rock Is Not As Their Rock" printed on back. 100% Pre-shrunk Cotton. Choice of Aqua, Lavender or Gray.

(List Price: \$10.00) Ministry Price: \$7.99.

MM LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRT

Petra "Sword" Logo on front. "Our Rock Is Not As Their Rock" printed on sleeve. 100% Pre-shrunk Cotton. Shipment will be made in available colors only.

(List Price: \$12.00) Ministry Price: \$9.99.

Petra Posters, Pins and Photos

QQ PETRA "IN CONCERT" POSTER (Not Pictured)

Action poster of the guys on magenta starfield background. 17" x 22", this is a favorite collector's item. \$3.99

SS ALBUM COVER POSTER (Not Pictured)

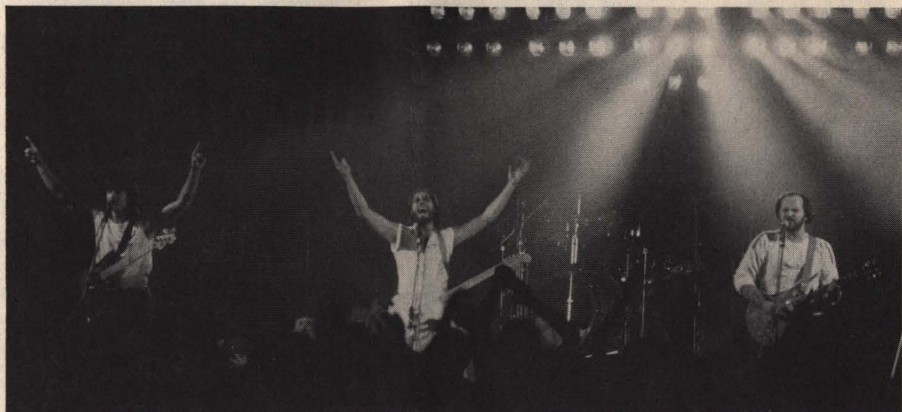
Full color wall poster of "Not of This World" album cover artwork. 23" x 23". \$3.99

PP ALBUM PIN

2" x 2" full color lapel pin is a miniature of the "Not of This World" album cover. \$1.99

XX COLOR 8x10 PHOTO OF PETRA

Full color 8x10" photo of Petra, with our scripture verse. \$1.99



Run for the Prize!

(Continued from page 5)

Are you out of shape? Begin training today! Then, RUN FOR THE PRIZE!

HOW DID JESUS DO IT?

How did Jesus stay in shape in relationship with God, his father?

1. He talked with God a lot. Jesus spent much time with people, but he knew that the source of his ministry was his relationship with God. Jesus would leave the crowds often to pray. He would wake up before dawn, find a special garden spot, or spend all night praying. We can learn to do the same! **Luke 11:1-13.**

2. Jesus studied God's word. As a child of twelve, Jesus had studied and learned from scripture and from his

parents, and he amazed the religious leaders of his day with his understanding. He grew in wisdom (intellectually), stature (physically), and in favor with God (spiritually), and with man (socially). Love for God was at the heart of Jesus' growth, and should be at the heart of yours! **Luke 2:41-52.**

3. Jesus committed himself to God's will. At twelve, he was curious and excited to be in his Father's house. As a child, he was obedient to his parents. When he was later tempted, he knew his priorities and chose to obey God rather than give in to temporary pleasure, power, or pride. And as Jesus died, he did so in faith and obedience to God's perfect plan. God honored Jesus' obedience. He raised him from the dead and is completing Jesus' purpose in heaven and on earth.

4. Jesus stayed with the right food. Many times Jesus taught us that physical food only last temporarily. The real power that sustains our lives is God! Don't accept artificial substitutes. Stay with the Lord, the true bread of life. **John 6:28-40.**

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